



# General Assembly

Official Records

## Disarmament Commission

### 188<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Monday, 25 April 1994, 10 a.m.  
New York

Chairman: Mr. Mongbe ..... (Benin)

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Stelzer (Austria),  
Vice-Chairman, took the chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.*

#### Statement by the Chairman

**The Chairman:** For those delegations surprised to see an Austrian chairing this meeting when Ambassador Hohenfellner was just recently Chairman, the explanation is easy. The Chairman, Ambassador Mongbe, is out of town on official business, and he asked me, as one of the Vice-Chairmen, to represent him during the days of his absence. I shall make every effort to do so, and I hope that members will show me the same degree of cooperation as they have pledged to the Chairman.

The Disarmament Commission concluded the first phase of its work for the current session on Wednesday, 20 April, and a large number of delegations participated in the general exchange of views.

Thereafter, the Commission embarked on the second phase of its work, and all three Working Groups have begun deliberations on their respective agenda items. During the course of the deliberations, various views have been expressed by delegations on the subjects under consideration. Some delegations have submitted working papers to the Commission or made proposals on various agenda items. It is expected that more working papers will be submitted during the course of the deliberations of the three Working Groups. In this connection, the Secretariat urges delegations to submit papers as soon as possible for timely processing.

#### Reports by Chairmen of Working Groups

**The Chairman:** As announced, this plenary meeting will be devoted to the progress reports of the Chairmen of the Working Groups on the work on their respective agenda items.

**Mr. Khandogy (Ukraine)** (Chairman of Working Group I): It is my distinct pleasure to present the progress report of Working Group I.

As the Commission will recall, Working Group I was established to deal with agenda item 4, "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons". The Working Group has held three meetings to date, during which it discussed chapters I, II and III of the unofficial Chairman's paper, which was circulated to delegations on 18 September 1993 and which was taken as the basis of our discussion this year.

After reviewing chapters I, II and III of the Chairman's paper paragraph by paragraph, the Working Group decided to pause at that stage in order to enable the Chairman to prepare a revised version of chapters I, II and III before it started dealing with chapter IV, entitled "Principles and recommendations, conditions and measures required for strengthening the process of nuclear disarmament".

During today I intend to finalize the revision of the first three chapters and circulate it to the Group, hopefully, later this afternoon or tomorrow morning. To be able to do that, the Group decided not to have a formal meeting

today. We instead reached an understanding with the Chairman of Working Group II on science and technology, Ambassador Peggy Mason, to swap meetings between the two Groups. I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for that spirit of cooperation. So tomorrow, 26 April, Working Group I will start discussing chapter IV, based on the revised text of the first three chapters of the Chairman's paper.

In conclusion, I should like to stress that the Working Group is conscious of the fact that this is the final year of deliberations on this item and is, in my opinion, prepared to do its utmost to discharge the mandate entrusted to it.

**Ms. Mason** (Canada) (Chairman of Working Group II): Working Group II, on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, has also held three meetings.

The first meeting, on Wednesday, 20 April, was an organizational meeting at which I, as Chair, gave a short summary of the results of the work on this item in years one through three, which led to what became annex III to the 1993 report of the Disarmament Commission. I then briefly referred to the intersessional consultations I had carried out, leading to the non-paper of 6 December. I went on from there to refer to the subsequent consultations, both in Geneva and in capitals. I summarized all of that by saying that there was a general, but not unanimous, agreement to focus only on the bracketed text in annex III and the overall balance of the document. After that summary I put forward a proposed work plan which led to an agreement that annex III would become the basis of our work, and it was then distributed as Conference Room Paper 1.

It was also agreed that the non-paper of 6 December, on consultations up to that point, would be available for background. It was distributed, still in its form as a non-paper. I also agreed, pursuant to requests from the floor, that the summary I had given orally would be made available as soon as possible. I must note now that I have been unable to get that into written form yet, but hope to be able to do so soon.

It was also agreed that we would focus our work on, and begin with, what is agreed to be the crucial section of the document - section III, on the transfer of high technology with military applications; it is crucial in that if we are to get overall agreement we must solve the problems still outstanding there. It was agreed that we

would focus there on the bracketed text, beginning with paragraph 12, and that is what we did in the two subsequent meetings.

As a result of that discussion, a revised rolling text under Conference Room Paper 2, will be distributed at the meeting this morning, which is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. in Conference Room 5. That Conference Room Paper will indicate some tentative clearing of brackets with respect to the first part of paragraph 12 and will indicate various formulations still on the table, none of which has found full approval yet with respect to the second part of paragraph 12. As I indicated at the end of the third meeting, when we start our meeting at 11 a.m. we shall begin again to look at paragraph 12 as it will appear in Conference Room Paper 2.

**Mrs. Lozano** (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of Ambassador Luis Fernando Jaramillo, who, for reasons beyond his control, cannot be present today, it is my pleasure to present the report of Working Group III on international arms transfers, with particular reference to resolution 46/36 H.

The Group's two meetings held so far have been dedicated to a fruitful exchange of ideas on general aspects of the item under discussion. In his opening statement, Ambassador Jaramillo, as Chairman of the Group, asked delegations to be mindful of the human factor in their deliberations on the problems inherent to international arms transfers, and to the illicit arms traffic in particular.

On behalf of the delegation of Colombia, he had the honour of submitting document A/CN.10/184, entitled "Guidelines for the control of international arms transfers aimed at eradicating the illicit arms trade". This document is my country's contribution to our work in Working Group III. It stresses the preventive aspects and controls that will be necessary to avoid arms falling into the hands of those involved in the illicit arms trade. The Group's discussion covered a broad range of related subjects, many of which are included in documents that have enjoyed a high degree of consensus, such as resolution 46/36 H and the Secretary-General's report on the item. Attention was also focused on the paper presented by the delegation of Colombia.

Delegations expressed their general opinions in accordance with the Group's mandate, focusing on the illicit arms trade, as a problem warranting a prompt solution because of its grave consequences for international peace and security and the stability of many nations. The

contributions of delegations gave important impetus to the Working Group, which will allow us to make progress on our plan of work, presented by the Chairman on 22 April, entitled "Guidelines for international arms transfers". This working paper has five chapters. The first is the introduction. The second deals with scope and definitions; the third with principles; the fourth with ways and means to regulate international arms transfers; and the fifth with institutional arrangements for monitoring international arms transfers. The role of the United Nations is included among the institutional arrangements.

We hope that the continued participation of delegations and the working papers to be submitted by some of them will make our discussions even more useful.

**The Chairman:** I hope that representatives share my perception of the encouraging nature of the reports we have just heard. They seem to augur well for positive and concrete results in two Working Groups at the end of the remaining two weeks and in two weeks plus two years in Working Group III.

We have completed the first round of progress reports on the various agenda items. As indicated in the adopted general programme of work, contained in document A/CN.10/1994/CRP.1, the second progress reports will be made by the Chairmen of the Working Groups on Monday, 2 May.

#### Programme of work

**The Chairman:** At the Expanded Bureau meeting held on Friday, 22 April in the afternoon, a weekly working timetable was agreed upon among members of the Bureau, as contained in Informal Paper No. 2, which has been distributed to all delegations.

I would like to inform members of a few modifications that have been made to this timetable as a result of the consultations which we held this morning. It was because of those consultations that there was a delay in beginning this meeting, in spite of the Chairman's request that we continue his new tradition of starting within five minutes of the official opening time of the meeting.

According to the working timetable, for the period 25 to 29 April, Working Group II, on science and technology, is to meet at 11 a.m. in Conference Room 5. As pointed out by Mr. Khandogy, the Bureau made a change in the schedule of two Working Groups, and it has therefore been announced that Working Group II will meet

in Conference Room 4. The Secretariat is making an effort to exchange this room for a smaller one to facilitate the work of Working Group II. The United Nations is so busy that it seems to be very difficult to change conference rooms, but the Secretariat has agreed to make every effort to do so.

In the afternoon, Working Group II is meeting to continue its work. I should like to call representatives' attention to today's *Journal*, in which an announcement is made that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 48/87 of 16 December 1993, the Chairman of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) - Ambassador von Wagner - will hold open-ended informal consultations this week on the further rationalization of the work of the Committee. Responding to the request of many delegations that we avoid overlapping meetings during this session of the Disarmament Commission, efforts have been made to find time-slots for these informal consultations so that they do not overlap with any meetings of the Working Groups, so as to facilitate the participation of all delegations in the work of the Working Groups and in the informal consultations. The first round of these informal consultations will take place this afternoon at 5 p.m. Working Group II will end its work a little earlier to facilitate the holding of the informal consultations, which will take place today from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the conference room where Working Group II will meet.

The second round of these informal consultations will take place tomorrow between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. following the meeting of Working Group I.

The time and venue of the third round of consultations will be announced as soon as a time-slot is agreed upon. Other than that, the working schedule which has been distributed remains unchanged.

Are there any comments?

**Ms. Mason (Canada):** I am speaking not to propose any change in the schedule that you have outlined, Sir, but simply to take this opportunity to inform delegations that - within the framework of the meeting of Thursday, 28 April of Working Group II - we have been advised that, on 28 April between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, the Minister of Science, Research and Higher Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Mrs. Anke Brunn, would like to make a presentation on the Bonn International Conversion Centre, subject to the Group's agreement. Since this very much relates to one sub-item of our work - science and

technology for disarmament - we would hope to adjourn the Group's formal work and then have a one-hour presentation. I would urge delegations interested in science and technology to attend the presentation, because I think that it will demonstrate some of the concrete applications of some of the things that we have been discussing in that Working Group.

**The Chairman:** This important announcement does not change our working schedule, because the presentation will take place within the framework of Working Group II,

complementing its work, on Thursday, 28 April, between 11 a.m. and noon.

There being no further comments on our working schedule and no other matters of business that delegations wish to raise, I should like to express our happiness that Under-Secretary-General Petrovsky was able to participate at this meeting of the Disarmament Commission and witness the progress made during the first week of the 1994 annual session.

*The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.*